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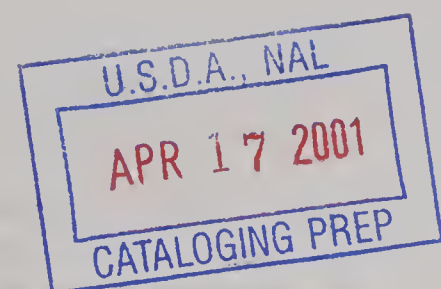


NASS

FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

Farm Labor



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2001

sed February 16, 2001, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Farm Labor" call Steve Logan at 202-690-3228, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up 7 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 841,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 7-13, 2001, down 2 percent from a year ago. There were 678,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 163,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 10.0 percent of the January hired workforce compared with 7.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.65 per hour during the January 2001 survey week, up 55 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.71 per hour, up 46 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$8.09 per hour compared with \$7.61 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 48 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 36.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.4 hours a year ago.

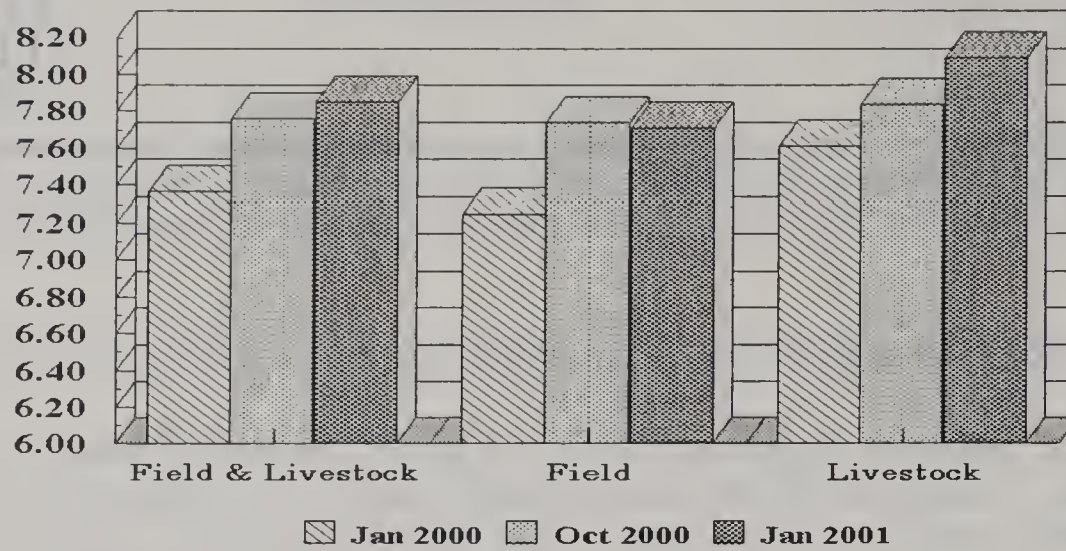
The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions. In the Southern Plains region, unusually cold weather providing limited wheat pasture for grazing caused an increase in livestock workers needed to help ranchers move cattle to appropriate feeding areas. Nursery work was also active in the region. In Appalachian II, additional workers were needed primarily for tobacco stripping and extra livestock maintenance because of the harsh weather in December. Favorable weather in Northeast I allowed for pruning orchards and vineyards. Other activities in the region included packing and grading fruits and vegetables from storage, additional nursery work, caring for livestock, and general farm maintenance.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. Farmers in part of the Delta region were recovering from ice storms and snow in the weeks leading up to the survey. Weather during the survey week was mostly damp and cool prompting farmers to use fewer workers. In Corn Belt II, unfavorable weather allowed for little farm work during the survey week. Farmers were dealing with rain and snow by week's end primarily in western areas of the region. In the Lake region, farm activity was limited to general farm maintenance and livestock work.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in all regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, California, Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), and Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas) regions. The higher wages in these regions were generally attributable to fewer seasonal workers on the payroll.

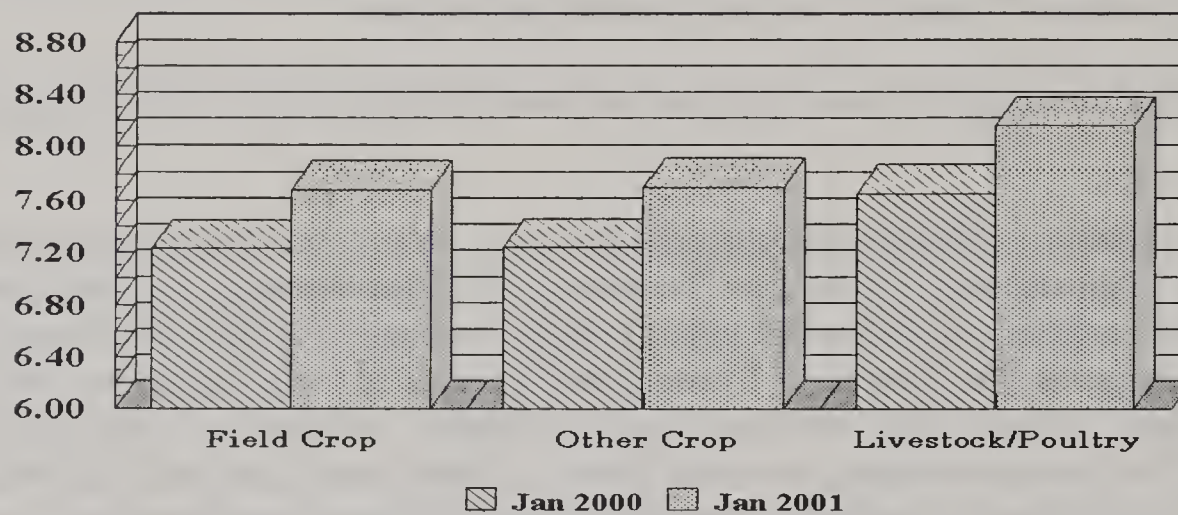
U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

Dollars/Hour



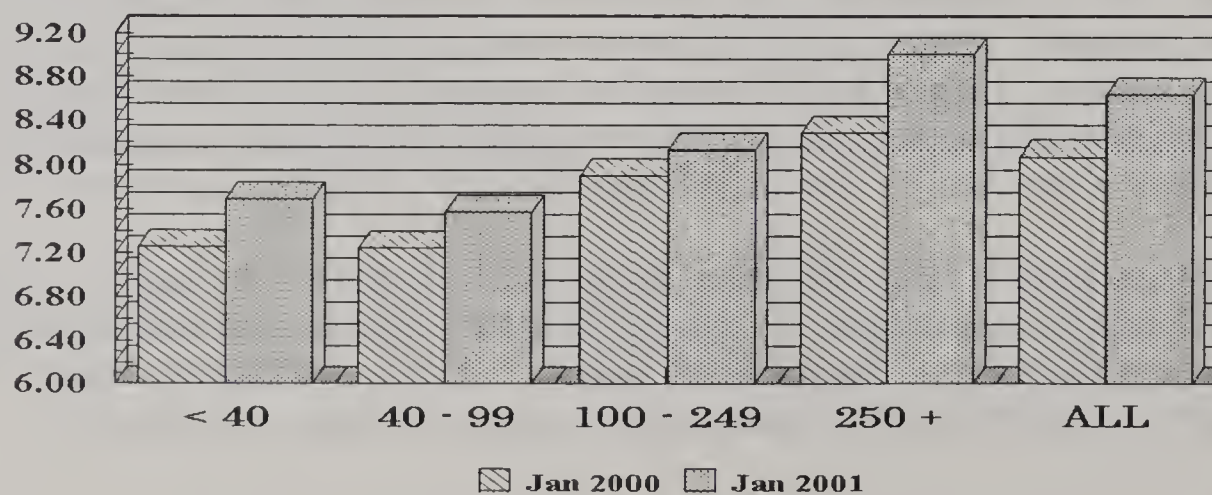
Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers by Type of Farm

Dollars/Hour



Wage Rates of All Hired Workers by Economic Class of Farm

Dollars/Hour



**Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States,
January 7-13, 2001, with Comparisons ¹**

Farm Employment	January 9-15, 2000	October 8-14, 2000	January 7-13, 2001
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Hired Workers	685	952	678
150 Days or More	540	662	560
149 Days or Less	145	290	118
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	172	*288	163
Hired Farm & Service Workers	857	*1,240	841
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Migrant Workers Percent of Hired Farm & Service Workers	7.7	*11.3	10.0
	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Hours Worked Hired	38.4	41.2	36.9
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.10	8.29	8.65
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	7.37	7.76	7.85
Field	7.25	7.74	7.71
Livestock	7.61	7.84	8.09

* Revised.

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, January 7-13, 2001 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	28	26	2	39.6
Northeast II	31	27	4	37.9
Appalachian I	22	18	4	34.5
Appalachian II	27	14	13	32.8
Southeast	20	17	3	37.8
FL	55	47	8	37.6
Lake	38	34	4	34.6
Cornbelt I	34	29	5	36.9
Cornbelt II	14	13	1	37.3
Delta	17	15	2	33.5
Northern Plains	32	29	3	37.7
Southern Plains	65	54	11	38.1
Mountain I	19	17	2	42.3
Mountain II	18	15	3	39.8
Mountain III	18	16	2	44.2
Pacific	43	35	8	35.7
CA	190	148	42	35.7
HI	7	6	1	35.6
US ³	678	560	118	36.9

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, January 7-13, 2001 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	8.42	7.45	7.86	9.06
Northeast II	7.98	7.01	7.59	8.47
Appalachian I	7.65	7.82	7.73	8.34
Appalachian II	6.57	7.26	6.84	7.18
Southeast	7.30	7.25	7.29	7.88
FL	7.65	7.90	7.67	8.29
Lake	9.12	8.26	8.57	9.53
Cornbelt I	8.58	9.06	8.88	10.10
Cornbelt II	7.86	8.61	8.49	9.05
Delta	7.56	6.62	7.15	7.73
Northern Plains	8.45	8.47	8.46	9.11
Southern Plains	7.35	7.71	7.53	7.98
Mountain I	8.06	8.22	8.19	8.63
Mountain II	7.57	7.76	7.68	8.72
Mountain III	6.71	7.35	6.91	7.72
Pacific	7.96	8.81	8.13	9.06
CA	7.65	8.99	7.86	8.75
HI ⁴	9.07		9.10	10.66
US ³	7.71	8.09	7.85	8.65

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, October 8-14, 2000 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	50	32	18	41.4
Northeast II	45	33	12	41.7
Appalachian I	40	23	17	36.2
Appalachian II	33	16	17	37.8
Southeast	33	22	11	35.1
FL	50	43	7	38.9
Lake	71	49	22	40.2
Cornbelt I	56	35	21	39.7
Cornbelt II	31	20	11	37.3
Delta	42	31	11	45.0
Northern Plains	33	24	9	54.4
Southern Plains	61	49	12	37.3
Mountain I	34	22	12	39.4
Mountain II	24	16	8	40.9
Mountain III	21	18	3	43.6
Pacific	78	38	40	42.3
CA	242	184	58	43.2
HI	8	7	1	35.8
US ³	952	662	290	41.2

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
By Region and United States, October 8-14, 2000 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	8.77	7.98	8.62	9.11
Northeast II	7.44	6.67	7.26	8.04
Appalachian I	7.21	7.56	7.28	7.65
Appalachian II	6.40	7.03	6.57	7.03
Southeast	6.89	7.02	6.93	7.28
FL	8.00	7.30	7.86	8.72
Lake	8.40	8.35	8.39	9.05
Cornbelt I	8.07	7.86	8.03	8.39
Cornbelt II	7.41	8.19	7.72	7.90
Delta	6.76	7.13	6.82	7.06
Northern Plains	8.21	8.23	8.22	8.41
Southern Plains	6.71	7.30	6.95	7.59
Mountain I	7.39	8.10	7.64	7.80
Mountain II	7.29	7.71	7.44	7.82
Mountain III	6.71	7.73	6.96	7.52
Pacific	8.79	9.00	8.81	9.24
CA	7.70	8.65	7.79	8.44
HI ⁴	9.05		9.07	10.73
US ³	7.74	7.84	7.76	8.29

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region
and United States, January 9-15, 2000 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Hired			
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More ³	149 Days or Less ³	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	23	20	3	36.9
Northeast II	27	24	3	36.0
Appalachian I	22	18	4	34.9
Appalachian II	21	10	11	30.6
Southeast	23	17	6	37.2
FL	60	48	12	41.9
Lake	48	39	9	31.4
Cornbelt I	36	28	8	31.0
Cornbelt II	19	17	2	41.1
Delta	24	21	3	30.6
Northern Plains	29	26	3	38.6
Southern Plains	44	32	12	37.6
Mountain I	21	19	2	39.6
Mountain II	19	16	3	40.9
Mountain III	20	18	2	43.5
Pacific	37	28	9	36.1
CA	204	152	52	42.7
HI	8	7	1	36.6
US ³	685	540	145	38.4

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers
By Region and United States, January 9-15, 2000 ¹**

U.S. and Region ²	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast I	8.12	7.22	7.54	8.51
Northeast II	7.84	6.66	7.42	8.33
Appalachian I	7.00	7.27	7.12	7.55
Appalachian II	6.22	6.93	6.44	6.76
Southeast	6.93	6.68	6.86	7.43
FL	7.40	7.50	7.41	8.28
Lake	8.72	7.96	8.11	8.83
Cornbelt I	8.51	8.45	8.48	9.32
Cornbelt II	7.31	7.87	7.80	8.13
Delta	7.04	6.51	6.83	7.35
Northern Plains	8.12	7.90	7.98	8.34
Southern Plains	7.06	7.10	7.08	7.52
Mountain I	7.44	7.72	7.64	8.15
Mountain II	7.46	7.60	7.56	8.09
Mountain III	6.51	6.83	6.57	7.22
Pacific	7.79	8.46	7.91	8.78
CA	7.02	8.00	7.12	7.94
HI ⁴	8.96		8.90	10.40
US ³	7.25	7.61	7.37	8.10

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Region map on page 13.

³ Excludes AK.

⁴ Insufficient data for livestock.

**Field and Livestock Workers Combined: Wage Rates, by Type
of Farm, by Region and 48 States ¹**

Region ²	January 9-15, 2000				January 7-13, 2001			
	Field Crops	Other Crops	L'stk & Poultry	All Farms	Field Crops	Other Crops	L'stk & Poultry	All Farms
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
Northeast	6.86	7.62	7.17	7.47	3/	7.98	7.32	7.71
Appalachian	6.41	6.96	7.06	6.80	6.46	7.67	3/	7.23
Southeast	3/	7.33	7.13	7.27	7.73	7.49	8.09	7.57
Lake	3/	8.45	8.04	8.11	8.38	9.06	8.31	8.57
Cornbelt	8.66	8.18	7.92	8.18	9.60	8.45	8.45	8.75
Delta	6.91	7.11	6.62	6.83	3/	7.23	6.17	7.15
Northern Plains	8.13	3/	7.66	7.98	8.87	8.31	8.34	8.46
Southern Plains	6.51	6.98	7.35	7.08	7.15	7.21	7.78	7.53
Mountain	3/	*7.34	*7.33	*7.23	7.06	6.99	7.95	7.59
Pacific	3/	*7.08	*8.17	*7.22	8.32	7.65	8.90	7.91
48 States	*7.23	*7.24	*7.65	*7.37	7.66	7.68	8.14	7.85

**All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm
by Region and 48 States ¹**

Region ²	January 9-15, 2000					January 7-13, 2001				
	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's				All Farms	Gross Value Sales-\$1000's				All Farms
	<40	40-99	100-249	250+		<40	40-99	100-249	250+	
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
N. East	7.24	7.82	7.64	8.70	8.45	7.82	7.79	7.46	9.35	8.76
Appal.	7.02	3/	3/	7.37	7.14	6.80	6.38	6.38	3/	7.72
S. East	3/	3/	3/	8.22	8.06	6.61	7.95	8.19	8.35	8.18
Lake	3/	8.83	6.85	9.16	8.83	9.01	9.19	3/	9.68	9.53
Cornbelt	3/	3/	3/	9.25	8.96	6.65	7.22	9.47	10.06	9.79
Delta	6.21	3/	3/	7.60	7.35	7.16	6.34	3/	8.91	7.73
N. Plains	6.99	6.86	7.71	8.53	8.34	7.73	3/	8.52	8.98	9.11
S. Plains	6.58	6.75	8.07	7.72	7.52	7.30	7.74	8.06	8.15	7.98
Mountain	6.77	7.88	7.29	8.01	7.80	3/	7.52	7.52	8.48	8.35
Pacific	*7.72	*7.29	*8.47	*8.08	8.12	7.52	7.81	8.36	8.98	8.81
48 States	*7.26	*7.24	*7.91	*8.28	*8.07	7.68	7.57	8.12	9.00	8.63

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Regions consist of the following States.

Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV.

Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC.

Lake: MI, MN, WI.

Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH.

Delta: AR, LA, MS.

Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD.

Southern Plains: OK, TX.

Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY.

Pacific: CA, OR, WA.

48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI.

³ Insufficient data.

**Field and Livestock Workers: Distribution
by Type of Farm, 48 States^{1 2 3}**

Type of Farm	January 9-15, 2000	October 8-14, 2000	January 7-13, 2001
	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Field and Livestock Workers</i>
Field Crops	12	*16	12
Other Crops	55	*55	53
Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry	33	29	35
	100	100	100

**Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic
Class of Farm, 48 States^{1 3}**

Gross Value of Sales	January 9-15, 2000	October 8-14, 2000	January 7-13, 2001
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Less than \$40,000	10	*10	10
\$40,000-\$99,999	8	*9	10
\$100,000-\$249,999	13	14	12
\$250,000 and over	69	67	68
	100	100	100

Hired Workers: Distribution by Category, United States,^{1 3}

	January 9-15, 2000	October 8-14, 2000	January 7-13, 2001
	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>	<i>Percent of Hired Workers</i>
Employed on Farms Hiring			
1 Worker	12	11	12
2 Workers	10	10	10
3-6 Workers	22	17	20
7-10 Workers	8	9	8
At least 11 Workers	48	53	50
	100	100	100

* Revised

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.

² Field and Livestock Workers combined.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

Agricultural Services

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 163,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 2001. Service workers in California numbered 73,000 this January compared with 77,000 last year. Florida's number of service workers was 18,000, compared with 16,000 last year.

The average wage received by agricultural service workers in California and Florida were \$8.85 and \$8.70 per hour, respectively. Comparable wages in January 2000 were \$7.60 in California and \$8.60 in Florida.

Agricultural Service Workers: Number, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates, for California, Florida, and United States ¹

State	Number of Workers Working on Farms			Hours Worked ²			Wage Rates ^{2 3}		
	Jan 2000	Oct 2000	Jan 2001	Jan 2000	Oct 2000	Jan 2001	Jan 2000	Oct 2000	Jan 2001
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>
CA	77.0	*89.0	73.0	35.0	*30.6	26.5	7.60	*8.82	8.85
FL	16.0	11.0	18.0	36.5	32.0	29.5	8.60	8.80	8.70
US	172.0	*288.0	163.0						

* Revised.

¹ Data are for Agricultural Services performed on the farm by custom service units such as crew leaders or custom crews. These statistics are not included in the State-Regional tables.

² United States data not available.

³ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

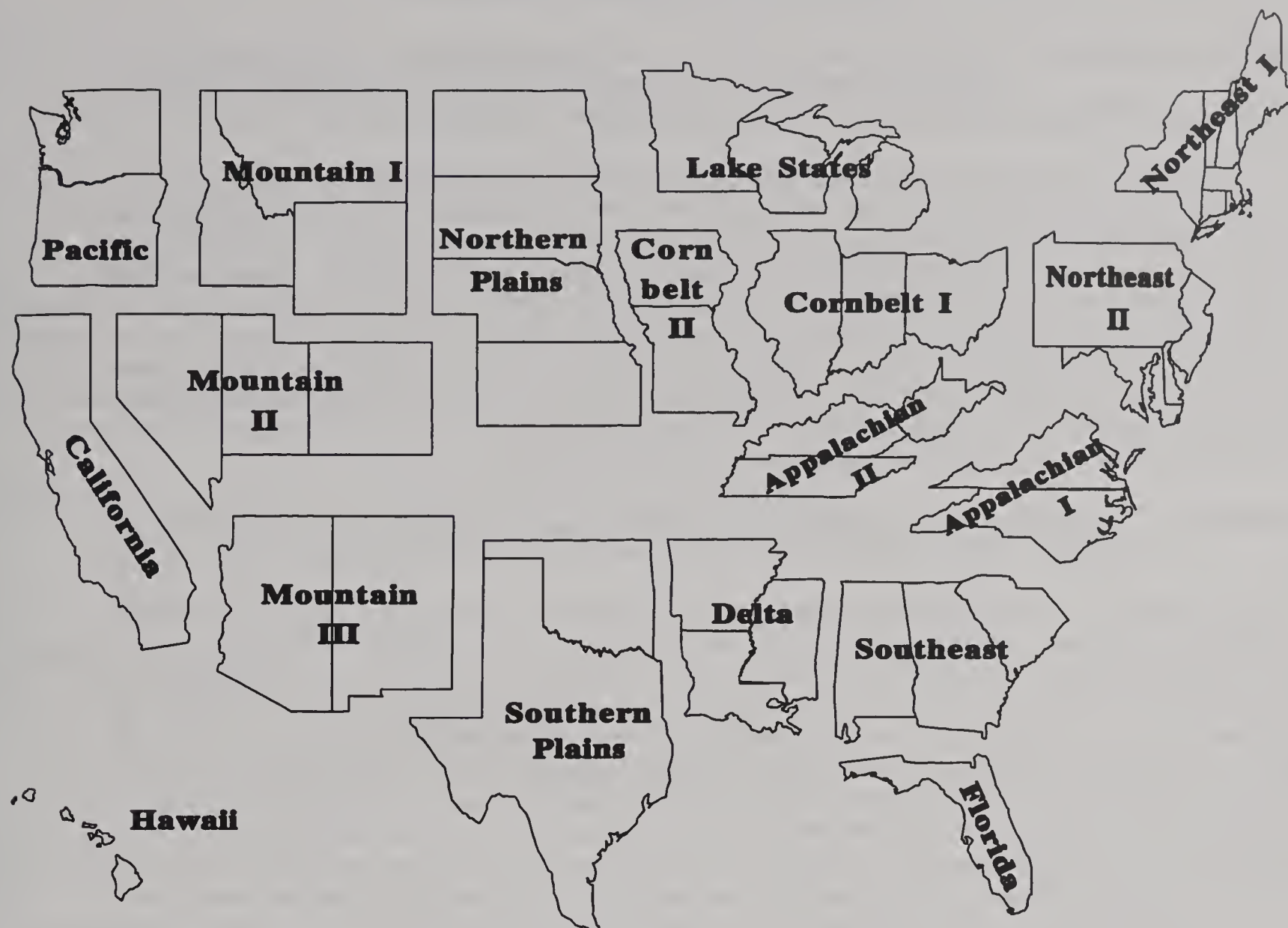
Migrant Workers: Percent of all Hired Workers, United States, By Quarter (Includes Agricultural Service Workers), 1998-01 ¹

Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1998	7.3	6.6	13.7	11.0
1999	6.0	8.7	12.4	12.3
2000	7.7	8.5	11.5	*11.3
2001	10.0			

* Revised.

¹ Definition "Migrant Worker" is a farm worker whose employment required travel that prevented the farm worker from returning to his/her permanent place of residence the same day.

Farm Labor Regions



Region

States

Northeast I	CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.
Northeast II	DE, MD, NJ, PA.
Appalachian I	NC, VA.
Appalachian II	KY, TN, WV.
Southeast	AL, GA, SC.
Lake	MI, MN, WI.
Cornbelt I	IL, IN, OH.
Cornbelt II	IA, MO.
Delta	AR, LA, MS.
Northern Plains	KS, NE, ND, SD.
Southern Plains	OK, TX.
Mountain I	ID, MT, WY.
Mountain II	CO, NV, UT.
Mountain III	AZ, NM.
Pacific	OR, WA.

Reliability of Farm Labor Estimates

Survey Procedures: These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the last two weeks of January using sampling procedures to ensure every employer of agricultural workers had a chance of being selected.

Two samples of farm operators are selected. First, NASS maintains a list of farms that hire farm workers. Farms on this list are classified by size and type. Those expected to employ large numbers of workers are selected with greater frequency than those hiring few or no workers. A second sample consists of segments of land scientifically selected from an area sampling frame. Each June, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names of farms found in these area segments are matched against the NASS list of farms; those not found on the list are included in the labor survey sample to represent all farms. This methodology is known as multiple frame sampling, with an area sample used to measure the incompleteness of the list. Additionally, a list of agricultural service firms was sampled in California and Florida. The survey reference week was January 7-13, 2001.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and nonsampling, are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types affect the "precision" of the estimates.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sampling error measures the variation in estimates from the average of all possible samples. An estimate of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the estimates from all possible samples averaged together would be between 98 and 102; which is the survey estimate, plus or minus two times the sampling error. The sampling error expressed as a percent of the estimate is called the relative sampling error. The relative sampling error for number of hired workers at the U.S. level was 3.9 percent. The relative sampling error for the number of hired workers generally ranged between 9 and 25 percent at the regional level. The U.S. all hired farm worker wage rate had a relative sampling error of 1.1 percent. The relative sampling error was 1.0 percent for the combined field and livestock worker wage rate. Relative sampling errors for the all hired farm worker wage rate generally ranged between 2 and 7 percent at the regional levels. Relative sampling errors for wage rates published by type of farm and economic class of farm ranged between 2 and 21 percent at the regional level.

Nonsampling errors can occur in a complete census as well as in sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each operation sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, and mistakes in editing, coding, or processing the data. Special efforts are taken at each step of the survey to minimize nonsampling errors.

Revision Policy: Farm labor information is subject to revision the next time the information is published or the year after the original publication date. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. Worker numbers and wage rates for October 2000 and January 2000 were subject to revision with this report. Revisions were made and previous data are reprinted in this report for your information.

Next Farm Labor Publication Date: The May 18th report will have information for the survey week of April 8-14, 2001. The report will include the number of All Hired Workers, Average Hours Worked by Hired Workers, and the All Hired Worker Wage Rates at the regional and U.S. levels. The wage rate for field, livestock, and combined field and livestock workers will also be available at the regional and U.S. level. The number of Agricultural Service Workers and the corresponding wage rates will be published for California and Florida.

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The next "Farm Labor" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on May 18, 2001.



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